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Application Serial No. 09/576,989

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HCV sequence comprises, from 5' to 3' on the positive-sense nucleic acid, a functional 5' non-translated region (5' NTR); one or more protein coding regions, including at least one polyprotein coding region that is capable of replicating HCV RNA, and a functional HCV 3' non-translated region (3' NTR) and wherein said [polypeptide] polypucleotide further comprises an adaptive mutation.

## Remarks

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1, 3-24, 29, 41-44, 61-70 and 72-75 are now pending.

Respectfully submitted,

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